

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

MC-02 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-10

SAM-01 /078 W

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O 261300Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7135

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2687

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN PK US

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS AMBASSADOR KAUL'S STATEMENT ON
THE LIFTING OF U.S. ARMS EMBARGO

BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR KAUL'S FEB. 24 STATEMENT ON THE
LIFTING OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN
THE INDIAN PRESS FEB. 26. REPORTAGE MENTIONED THAT DR. KISSINGER
CHIDED KAUL PUBLICLY. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST NEWSPAPERS GAVE FRONTPAGE TREATMENT TO THE KAUL'S
STATEMENT, HIGHLIGHTING BOTH IN THE LEAD AND HEADLINE, THAT THE
CREDIBILITY OF THE U.S. IS REDUCED. SOME TYPICAL HEADLINES:
"CREDIBILITY OF U.S. FURTHER REDUCED: KAUL:
(NATIONAL HERALD) AND "KAUL: ANOTHER BLOW TO U.S.
CREDIBILITY" (HINDUSTAN TIMES).

2. MOSTLY BASED ON A PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DISPATCH WHICH LED
WITH KAUL'S DECLARATION THAT THE US ACTION "FURTHER REDUCES THE
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CREDIBILITY OF UNITED STATES ASSURANCES WHICH HAVE PROVED

INOPERATIVE IN THE PAST." REPORTAGE EMPHASIZED KAUL'S CRITICISM OF THE US ACTION AND QUOTED HIM SAYING THE WASHINGTON DECISION "IS BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF POWER, BALANCE OF POWER, OF CREATING INFLUENCE THROUGH SUPPLY OF ARMS-- A POLICY THAT FAILED IN THE SUBCONTINENT AND SOME OTHER ADJOINING AREAS."

3. OTHER POINTS MENTIONED IN THE STORIES REFERRED TO INDIA'S EXPERIENCE OF "THREE BLOODY CONFLICTS" THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, IN SPITE OF THE AMERICAN ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY;" THE HASTE WITH WHICH WASHINGTON ANNOUNCED THE DECISION WITHOUT GIVING MR. CHAVAN AND AMBASSADOR SAXBE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE; KAUL'S ASSERTION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WILL "TAKE DUE NOTE OF THE FEELINGS IN PARLIAMENT BEFORE ANNOUNCING A DECISION" ABOUT THIS TRIP; AND HIS COMPLAINT THAT, THOUGH PROMISED, HE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

4. SOME ACCOUNTS SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KAUL DISCLOSED THAT INDIA WILL LODGE A STRONG WRITTEN PROTEST WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE TIMES OF INDIA REPORT FROM WASHINGTON STRESSED THIS POINT IN THE HEADLINE: "NEW DELHI TO LODGE STRONG PROTEST."

5. RELATED NEWS TREATMENT INCLUDED DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT CHIDING KAUL PUBLICLY--FRONTPAGE HEADLINES IN THE TIMES OF INDIA AND MOTHERLAND. STORY CONTENTS STRESSED THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT MINISTER CHAVAN'S STATEMENT WAS "RESTRAINED AND STATESMANLIKE" BUT THE KAUL'S STATEMENTS WERE "UNACCEPTABLE."

6. WARREN UNNA, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE STATESMAN, IN HIS ACCOUNT, "MATURE RELATIONS A LONG WAY OFF," SAID "KAUL ISSUED ONE OF THE MOST BLISTERING ATTACKS AGAINST A HOST GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MEMORY." COMMENTING FURTHER, "KAUL SPOKE OUT LIKE SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN TRUSTINGLY LED DOWN...AND KAUL, A FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY, LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE HAD BEEN FORSAKEN BY THE MAN HE HAD COURTED AND PRESUMABLY CONQUERED, THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY KISSINGER."

7. T.V. PARASURAM REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS WROTE: "FROM WHAT WAS DISCLOSED BY MR. KAUL AND LATER BY UNIDENTIFIABLE AMERICAN OFFICIALS, THE NOSE-DIVE IN INDO-UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN RELATIONS IS FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN EVEN THE PRESS BRIEFING BY MR. ATHERTON HAD INDICATED" AFTER THE US ANNOUNCEMENT.SCHNEIDER

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